

Eisner, Kev. S. J.

2012-000000000000000000

CLASS OF 1915:

The Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Sec. Am. Bd. Com. F. M.
The Rt. Rev. Arthur S. Lloyd, D.D.,
Pres. Bd. of Miss., Prot. Epis. Ch.
The Rev. Robert P. Mackay, D.D.,
Sec. F. M. Com., Pres. Ch. Canada
The Rev. Charles R. Watson, D.D.,
Sec. Bd. F. M., Unit. Pres. Ch.

CLASS OF 1916:

The Rev. Archibald McLean, D.D.,
Pres. For. Chr. Miss. Soc.
Mr. John R. Mott, LL.D.,
Chairman, Stud. Vol. Movement
The Rev. Frank Mason North, D.D.,
Sec. M. E. Bd. F. M.
The Rev. T. B. Ray, D.D.,
Sec. F. M. Bd., So. Bapt. Conv.

CLASS OF 1917:

The Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D.,
Sec. Bd. F. M., Pres. Ch. U.S.A.
The Rev. James Endicott, D.D.,
Sec. Miss. Soc., Meth. Ch., Canada
The Rev. James H. Franklin, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bapt. F. M. Soc.
Bishop Walter R. Lambuth, D.D.,
V. Pres. Bd. Miss., M. E. Ch. So.
Mr. William Henry Grant,
Sec. F. M. Conf., *ex officio*.

Committee of Reference and Counsel

Representing

THE FOREIGN MISSIONS

CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA

The Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D., Chairman,

156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

The Rev. Charles R. Watson, D.D., Secretary,

200 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia.

"The duties of the Committee of Reference and Counsel shall include such features as: (a) suggestions in regard to unoccupied fields; (b) negotiations with governments; (c) consideration of questions arising on the mission field between missions of different Boards as they may be referred to it; (d) such other questions as may be referred to it from time to time; (e) original action in cases requiring immediate attention and not involving questions of policy regarding which there might be essential differences of opinion; (f) act for the Conference *ad interim* in all matters calling for executive action, in so far as definite authority and power may not have been committed to regular or special committees; (g) the study of efficiency in the conduct of work on the foreign field."

September 1, 1914

To the Foreign Missions Boards
of the United States and Canada:

Dear Brethren:

The Committee of Reference and Counsel will hold a special meeting in New York September 17th, to consider the grave and urgent questions affecting foreign missionary work that have been precipitated by the European War. We have in mind not only the probably disastrous effect of that war upon the Church at home and its contributions to Foreign Missions but the almost certain effect of it upon the non-Christian world, while we must also take up certain specific questions relating to particular mission fields. An inquiry has come from Great Britain as to whether we would be disposed to join in some effort to give temporary relief to missionaries of European societies whose supplies have been cut off by the war and who are probably in great distress, especially the missionaries of the Continental societies. It is interesting to know that this suggestion comes to me from British missionary leaders.

The Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., writes that a conference of officers of the American and Baptist Boards in Boston yesterday unanimously requested me as Chairman of the Committee of Reference and Counsel to appoint a committee, "made up largely, if not entirely of the Treasurers of the leading Missionary Societies in New York, Philadelphia and Boston, and that this Committee be asked to make thorough investigation through the financial world as to methods by which funds can be transmitted to the missionary centres throughout the Nearer and the Farther East, in case methods which have hitherto been used fail us, as they have already failed in Turkey". He adds: "We are all convinced that there may be a financial crisis pending in the Farther East when we shall need to adopt some extraordinary measures in order to supply the financial needs of our respective missions, and it seems to us that no body of men in America is better able to face that situation and recommend a solution than the Treasurers of our great

Missionary Societies, who have back of them their Finance Committees, and who are in touch with the financial centres".

In accordance with this recommendation I have appointed the following committee:

Dr. George M. Fowler of the Methodist Board, 150 Fifth Ave., N. Y.
Mr. W.H. van Steenbergh, of the Reformed Board, 10 Wall St. "
Mr. Russell Carter, of the Presbyterian Board, 156 Fifth Ave., "
Mr. E. Walter Roberts, of the Episcopal Board, 22nd St. & 4th Ave. "
Mr. Robt. L. Latimer, of the United Presbyterian, 24 N. Front St. Phila, Pa.
Mr. Frank H. Wiggin of the American Board, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.
Mr. Ernest S. Butler, of the Baptist Board, Box 41, Boston, Mass.

I am sending you this letter, not only because of the feeling that you will be interested in knowing what is in contemplation, but in particular to ask board officers who are not members of the Committee of Reference and Counsel to write to me at once any suggestions that may occur to them as to what the Committee ought to do in behalf of all the missionary Boards and as to the ways in which we can best help the cause of Christ at this period of dire emergency. We are inviting the Chairmen and Secretaries of the Committee on Home Base, the Church Peace Union and the Federal Councils Commissions on Foreign Missions and Peace and Arbitration, and the available members of the Advisory Committee on questions affecting the relations of Missions to Governments, to meet with us in order that we may have the benefit of their judgment as to what should be done and avoid duplication of effort or announcement. The Committee is already in touch with the State Department in Washington and is assured that the President and Secretary of State are keenly alive to the gravity of the situation in the non-Christian lands that are affected by the War, and that they are doing everything in their power to see that neutral American interests are carefully safeguarded. As our Committee will have further relations with the State Department, we shall be very glad to serve as the medium of communication between the Boards and the Government, if in the judgment of any Board we can be helpful and obviate the embarrassment of having a large number of Boards deal independently with Washington and perhaps in conflicting ways.

We bespeak your earnest prayers for the meeting September 17th in order that we may be wisely guided of God. We shall be very grateful for any suggestions that you can send to us. We have no special measures to advocate, but are simply desirous of serving the common cause in this time of sore perplexity.

In behalf of the Committee,

Arthur J. Brown,

Chairman.

September 17th, 1914

Rev. Dr. A. J. Brown,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Brown:

I have your letter of September 12. At this time of the year, immediately before the opening of the term, it is necessary for me to be in Toronto, otherwise I should like very much to be at the committee of reference ~~which~~ which is meeting to-day, because I realise how very important are the matters that you have under discussion. It is a period of such great distress that all missionary societies, I am sure, will feel the pressure, and there is need of as much mutual help as possible. I do not know what assistance I could render but I shall be glad to do anything in my power in present circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 20th, 1915

Rev. A. J. Brown, D.D.,
27 Madison Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Brown:

I have read with care and great interest your letter to His Excellency, the Vice-Emperor of Korea, Minister of Foreign Affairs at Chosen. Your notices that I have seen in the press I have had some anxiety as to the cause of the affairs in Chosen, particularly as a number of my old students are carrying on work there. If the Japanese Government persists in the policy that they have outlined one can only contemplate with great concern the case as far as the missionary work is concerned. I agree with what you say in your letter to the fullest extent, and I believe that you have presented the case very ably. What His Excellency evidently does not understand is the underlying spirit of our people, the atmosphere in which we live in which all our educational regulations must be interpreted. It is a natural inference on his part, particularly in a country that has developed so rapidly and has adopted so many foreign methods, that our regulations should be taken literally. He does not seem to be aware that legislation is as a rule the last result of a long social or educational process. I am also surprised that he is not better informed as to the regulations themselves. I hope, however, that your elaborate, logical, well-informed,

and courteous letter will have a good effect.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.